

Applicant: David A. Esposito
Application No.: 10/672,590

Remarks

Status

Claims 17-36 were pending in the Application. The Examiner withdrew claims 17-27 and 32 as directed to an apparatus invention. Also, the Examiner rejected claims 28-31 and 33-36 for the reasons defined in the Office Action.

On April 28, 2005, Applicant filed a Reply After Final amending certain claims, and traversing the rejection of claims 28-31 and 33-36 and the withdrawal of claims 17-27 and 32. After the Examiner filed an Advisory Action, the undersigned attorney for Applicant and the Examiner had a telephone conference on May 31, 2005 in which Applicant proposed an amended Claim 28. Examiner stated the amended Claim 28 would be allowed.

Currently, claims 17, 19-25, 27-28, 30, 33-34, 36-42 are pending. Claims 18, 26, 29, 31-32 and 35 were canceled.

Claims 17, 28, and 33-34 are amended. Claims 37-42 are new.

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Discussion

The undersigned Applicant's attorney again thanks the Examiner for the May 31, 2005 telephone conference and the Examiner's review and approval of the amended Claim 28.

The Claim 28 shown above in the Amendment section of this Reply is slightly different than the version approved by the Examiner on May 31, 2005. The changes were made for clarification purposes only. Except for the substitution of "traverses" for "proceeds down" in line 7, all the amendments are merely changes in the placement of certain clauses shown in the May 31, 2005 version of Claim 28. For the Examiner's convenience, attached is a marked-up version of Claim 28 showing the following: 1) changes between original Claim 28 and Claim 28 proposed on May 31, 2005; and 2) changes between the May 31st Claim 28 and the current proposed version (shown in double strike-out and bold underlining).

Claims 17 and 33 have been amended similarly to how Claim 28 was amended. Applicant submits the Examiner should allow Claims 17 and 33 since he also plans to allow Claim 28. The amendment to Claim 34 proposed on April 28, 2005 to correct a typographical error is again proposed in the instant Amendment.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner withdrew claims 17-27 and 32 as directed to an apparatus invention. Claim 32 is now canceled.

Applicant again requests that the Examiner reconsider the withdrawal of Claims 17-27 as directed to a separate invention. Now that claims 17, 28 and 33

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have been amended to include a "game board," it is even clearer that all claims in this Application belong together.

The remaining claims depend from claim 17, 28 or 33 and, therefore, also are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above and for the further features recited therein.

Conclusion


For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 17, 19-25, 27-28, 30, 33-34, 36-42 are in condition for allowance. Early allowance of said claims is requested.

The undersigned would welcome the opportunity to further discuss this case with the Examiner if so desired by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Esposito

By



Frank A. Mazzeo

Registration No. 46,259

Frank A. Mazzeo, P.C.
Suite 200
808 Bethlehem Pike
Colmar, PA 18915
Telephone: 215-997-0248
Facsimile: 215-997-0266

PATENT

MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIM 28 SHOWING:

- 1) CHANGES MADE TO ORIGINAL CLAIM 28 ON MAY 31, 2005; AND
2) ADDITIONAL CHANGES MADE TO MAY 31, 2005 VERSION (SHOWN IN DOUBLE-STRIKOUT AND BOLD UNDERLINING).

28. (Amended) A method of playing a game that requires players to analyze real life situations, the method comprising:

gathering a plurality of players;

selecting an order for the plurality of players to be a player-in turn;

~~wherein the players take~~ taking turns being a player-in-turn;

wherein for each turn

~~a the player in-turn proceeds down~~ traverses a path formed on a game board as they play the game, wherein the path on the game board has a start and finish point, wherein the path has a plurality of categories defined thereon;

~~a the player in-turn is provided with a hypothetical real-life scenario based on~~ the category associated with their position on the path, wherein the scenario does not have a definitive answer but is used to provoke one's thoughts and principles;

the player in turn analyses the scenario and provides a response that describes what they believe should be done in response to the scenario; ~~and~~
wherein the player-in-turn provides at least one principle, from a list of pre-determined principles, that assisted in their response; and

at least one of the other players scores the response.

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~~wherein the path on the game board has a start and finish point, wherein~~
~~players traverse the path as they play the game;~~
~~wherein the path has a plurality of categories defined thereon, and the~~
~~player in turn is provided with a scenario based on their category on the path;~~